PAM.
CHINA

The Widening Horizon in China

By BISHOP J. W. BASHFORD

BOARD OF FOREIGN MISSIONS
OF THE METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH
CHINA CENTENNIAL COMMISSION
150 FIFTH AVENUE
NEW YORK

Printed in February, 1907

THE WIDENING HORIZON IN CHINA

The Missionary work of the Methodist Episcopal Church in China is practically confined to seven of the twenty-two provinces. One of our missionaries crosses the Yangtze at Kiukiang and thus does some work in an eighth province, Hupeh, where we have some splendid native Christians. Moreover Chinese Christians returning from California have of their own initiative preached the Gospel, led souls to Christ, built a church, and established a school in the Kwangtung Province. This work has been visited by the bishop resident in China. One native missionary, who is supported in part by the local church and in part by Chinese Christians in California, was ordained. We also have a very few missionaries across the line of Chihli, in the region of Manchuria, now divided into three provinces.

The provinces in which our missionaries labor contain one hundred and eighty-eight million people, while the provinces thus far not entered by us embrace two hundred and fifty million people. Were any similar pagan population discovered in any other part of the world without a Methodist missionary, our people would pour out their money and would have men on the way to save these millions within the next six months. Nearness, to be sure, would give an added emphasis to any such need or opportunity. But nearness, or, in this case, distance, ought not to be the influencing factor in the work of the kingdom of God. Surely the number thus far unreached by us, the openness of the Chinese for the Gospel, and the fact that we have mastered the language, have translated the Bible and have created some Chinese Christian literature, and can reach these millions in connection with our other work, make the appeal for the expansion of our work in the Chinese empire an irresistible one.

PROPOSALS FOR EXPANSION

I. Reënforce West China Mission

If the order of expansion can be planned, the first step to take is to reënforce immediately our work in West China so that we may at least retain the territory in that province which we have cultivated during the last twenty years. This territory embraces one sixth of the Szechuen province, with one third of its population of sixty-eight million people. Our Methodist missionaries, being among the first Christians to enter this province, naturally settled along the Yangtze from Chungking, the commercial metropolis, through the Chentu plain to Chentu, the political capital of the province. This Chentu plain, according to Mr. Archibald Little in "The Far East," has a denser population than any other spot on the face of the earth except possibly the county in which London is located. Here our missionaries have labored and prayed and built up a native Methodism. Our gains in the West China Mission have averaged 29 per cent a year for the last two years. Ninety per cent of our church members are mature men, and only ten per cent women and children. Ninety per cent of our church members can read and write as compared with ten per cent of the surrounding adult male population. We must receive word in the very near future that we can add four or five additional married workers to the force in West China, or else we must surrender to other societies a part of this most fruitful field. Surely Methodism ought to exert herself mightily to hold her possession in this garden spot of the world.

II. Extend the present boundaries of Foochow and Hinghua Conferences

The boundaries of the Foochow Conference ought to be enlarged in a northwesterly direction until they meet the boundaries of the Central China Conference. The boundaries of the Central China Conference ought to be extended fifty miles to the south that they may touch the southern end of the Hinghua Conference. In addition, the boundaries of the Hinghua Conference should be extended in a westerly direction until they

unite with the eastern limits of the Central China Conference. This would connect these three conferences and bring our missionaries into closer relations; would enable us to transfer missionaries from one field to another according to the relative needs of each field, and would contribute in every way to the enlargement and improvement of our work in those fields already occupied. To make these extensions would necessitate the adding of perhaps four missionaries and their wives to the force of the Foochow and Hinghua Conferences.

III. Divide Central China Conference into two parts

With this slight enlargement of what is now the Central China Conference, it should be divided into two conferences. This conference now has work in the four provinces of Kiangsu, Anhwei, Kiangsi and Hupeh, with an area as large as that of all New England, New York and New Jersey, and with a population of about one hundred millions. We have for this vast territory and enormous population but five foreign presiding elders, and the whole force at each of its five mission stations is entirely inadequate. To do any kind of justice to this work we ought immediately to double the number of presiding elders in Central China, and also add largely to our teaching and medical forces.

The Central China Conference is located in the great Yangtze valley, one of the most fertile farming sections in the world. Here also are great coal and iron resources. It has a perfect network of canals and streams. Moreover, being on China's great waterway, the Yangtze River, it is easy of access and is in touch with the outside world.

Here is a great population waiting for us to give them the Gospel. Surely Methodism will arise to this opportunity, and not make it necessary either to abandon territory or else to fail in this strategic region.

IV. Organize Shantung District into Shantung Conference

In the Shantung Province of the North China Conference we have one presiding elder's district for a province larger than New York State and a population of thirty-eight millions. The Parent

Board has three missionaries and their wives and the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society three workers for this entire province. This is the province which has been exploited to some extent by the Germans. It has vast coal and iron resources, and along with Shansi, promises to be the Pittsburg region of the Chinese empire. Indeed railroads are already building and the mines are being opened. This presiding elder's district should be expanded into the Shantung Conference. It should be extended south through the fertile territory lying along the Grand Canal, that ancient and noted artificial waterway, until the Shantung Conference connects with the Central China Conference. This would connect four of our five conferences in China. Here is another opportunity which Methodism must not allow to pass by through failing to respond in her providential hour.

V. Enter Manchuria

Nearly all of the territory formerly known as Manchuria has been made into the three provinces of Fengtien, Heilungkiang and Kirin and incorporated into China proper. Their latitude ranges from that of Columbus, Ohio, to that of the southern part of Canada, and their total area equals that of Ohio, Indiana, and Texas combined. The population has in twenty-five years increased from seven and one half millions to twenty-one millions. The soil is much like the black soil of Illinois and Iowa and is very fertile. This natural resource has been made available to the natives through the railroads which have been constructed by the Russians, and the railroad running from Tientsin, the commercial center of North China, through the Great Wall, to Mukden, the capital of Manchuria. There are also splendid coal and iron mines as yet unworked. Great developments are to take place there and the population fifty years hence will probably reach one hundred millions. Only two missions of any church are at work there now. Methodism should enter the field at once and occupy the place as worker there which the situation demands of her.

VI. Begin work in Shansi Province

Shansi Province lies west of Chihli Province and occupies about 81,830 square miles. Its population is 12,200,000. Baron

Richtofen, in his three-volume report to the German Government, startled the European nations by his statement that the Shansi Province contains the richest coal and iron deposits in the world. This report led to the attempt to divide China, which attempt failed only through the intervention of Secretary Hay and the United States. Richtofen says that there is coal enough in Shansi to supply the whole world for several thousand years. This is confirmed by the report of the second German commission in 1897-8. The mountains which contain the coal have been so upheaved that they can be mined on a level without sinking shafts. Railroads are already building in these fields and the dawn of a mining era is at hand. Coal in some places lies three thousand feet above the Pacific, so that with suitable railroads gravity will bear the mined coal to the sea. A tremendous amount of Chinese labor is at hand and in a comparatively few years Shansi will be the Pittsburg, the Birmingham, the West Virginia of Asia.

Such is the character of the field which calls us as a church to a decided advance. The list below gives what must be pledged before the work should be opened in either Manchuria or Shansi, and is by no means all that is needed adequately to man either one of these fields.

Five Missionaries—one physician, two teachers, and two evangelists, at $2,000 each for outgoing expenses and salary for two years	$10,000
Five residences for the above, at $2,500 each	12,500
One hospital, at $5,000	5,000
Two school buildings at $5,000 each	10,000
Native chapels, workers, etc	2,500
	$40,000

The accompanying table shows the size and the population of the various provinces and the number of people to each missionary. A glance at this table, together with the foregoing presentation, will show that in our proposals for strengthening existing work and for expansion, we have asked for it for the most fertile portions of the empire or else for those of largest manufacturing and mining possibilities and probabilities, where the largest number of people will be reached with the least possible effort.

	Area	Population	Pop. Sq. Mi.	Miss'ns	Missionaries	Inhab. Per Miss.
Anhwei	54,810	23,670,000	432	8	90	263,000
Chekiang	36,670	11,581,000	313	10	270	43,000
Chihli	115,800	20,937,000	181	12	273	58,000
Chinese Turkestan	550,000	1,200,000	2	..	...	.....
Fengtien	50,000	12,000,000	240	..	...	.....
Fukien	46,320	22,877,000	494	8	363	63,000
Heilungkiang	140,000	2,000,000	14	..	...	.....
Honan	67,940	35,317,000	519	7	93	380,000
Hunan	83,380	22,169,000	266	9	87	255,000
Hupeh	71,410	35,280,000	494	15	220	160,000
Kansu	125,450	10,385,000	83	3	57	182,000
Kiangsi	69,480	26,532,000	382	6	165	161,000
Kiangsu	38,600	13,980,000	362	20	360	39,000
Kirin	90,000	7,000,000	77	..	...	.....
Kwangsi	77,200	5,142,000	66	2	13	395,000
Kwangtung	99,070	31,865,000	319	19	419	77,000
Kweichau	67,160	7,650,000	111	1	25	306,000
Shansi	81,830	12,200,000	149	7	121	101,000
Shantung	55,970	38,248,000	683	14	225	170,000
Shensi	75,270	8,450,000	111	5	84	100,000
Szechuen	218,480	68,725,000	314	7	252	273,000
Yunnan	146,680	12,324,000	84	2	37	333,000
China Proper	2,362,420	429,532,000	259	20	3,249	132,000
Mongolia Dependencies	1,367,000	5,000,000	4	..	....	.....
Thibet Dependencies	738,000	3,500,000	5	..	....	.....
All China	4,467,420	438,032,000	100	..	....	.....

For more definite information as to special needs and opportunities, write to Dr. F. D. Gamewell, 150 Fifth Avenue, New York city.